



The Libyan Connection

Libya—a north African country on the U.S. list of terrorism sponsors—agrees under pressure to give up its nuclear weapons program. Okay... now what?

Have Y-12 handle it.



Left: Security Police Officer Pat Gallardo guards components of a Libyan gas centrifuge for enriching uranium that were surrendered to the United States and shipped to Y-12.

Inset: Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham describes the Libyan materials to Congressman Zach Wamp and the White House press corps at a Y-12 media event on March 15.

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Since World War II, Y-12 has carried the national security banner and led with our can-do attitude. Recent world events have renewed that spirit and willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty to serve our country's national security needs.

And that is what Y-12 did on very short notice when it received Libya's stash of nuclear materials and prepared for a planeload of reporters and dignitaries to descend upon it to view the 50 crates of heavily guarded parts and equipment on display for their eyes only.

Duane Bias of National Security Programs managed the transfer and storage of equipment at Y-12 as well as the equipment setup for the media event. Donna Griffith of Human Resources provided overall coordination of the media event for the Y-12 Site Office of the National Nuclear Security Administration. "Literally every division within Y-12 played a role in the success of the project," said Randy Spickard, director, NSP.

In January, Y-12 received the first shipment of materials and equipment for secure storage and disposition. "Happily, the equipment is no longer in Libya, but this is only the tip of the iceberg," said Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham at the media tour he conducted at

Y-12 for the White House press corps, showcasing the surrendered materials. "The work of Y-12 is to make our nation stronger and the world safer," said Bill Brumley, NNSA-YSO manager. "We are honored that Secretary Abraham came to Y-12 to share with the world the success of the Libyan mission. The fact is that the United States and the world are safer because the material was brought to Y-12 for safekeeping. I am proud of Y-12's role in this effort."

Libya—a north African country on the U.S. list of terrorism sponsors—agreed under pressure to give up its nuclear weapons program. The Libyan program was dismantled under the inspection and supervision of the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency and in cooperation with the United States and Britain.

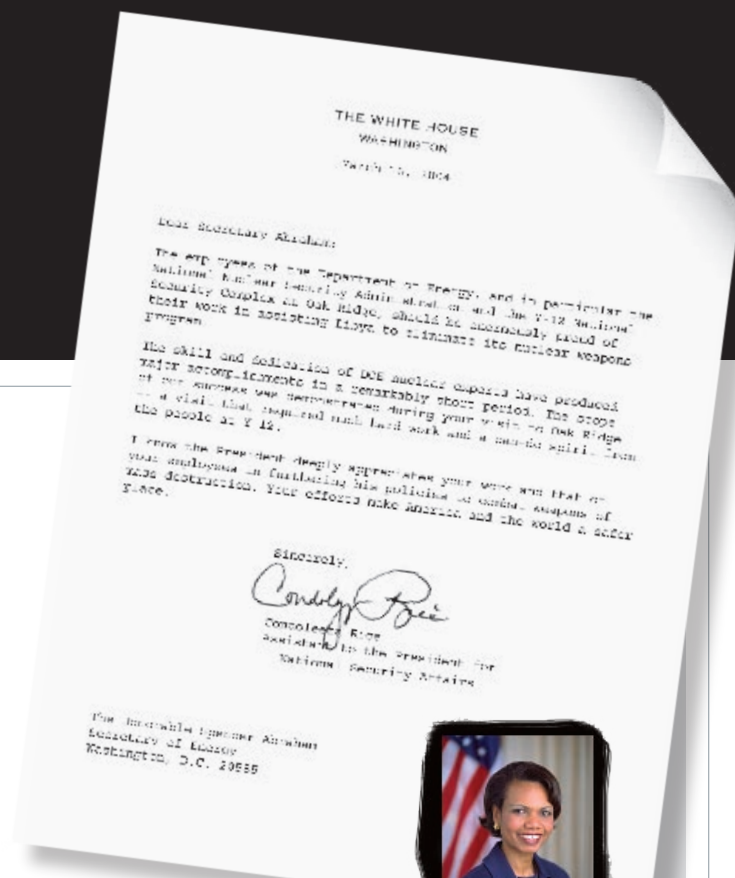
In October 2003, U.S. and allied agents intercepted a ship bound for Libya. Aboard were tons of materials and equipment needed to build a nuclear weapons program and construct an atomic bomb.

As the world had long suspected, Libya had been trafficking in nuclear equipment and designs, and Abdul Qadeer Khan, one of Pakistan's top scientists and the father of its nuclear weapons program,

was the main supplier through his underground network.

Y-12, "The Fort Knox of Uranium," was the obvious place to receive the Libyan materials and equipment because of our expertise and our people. "We're a production facility," Spickard said. "We know what is involved with this kind of work because we handle it every day. We didn't have to develop skills; we were ready. Because of our experience and collective knowledge, this is the perfect place to send material. They knew they could send it here, and we could handle it without question. Everyone at Y-12 should be extremely proud of the role we played in this very important mission."

This event was a tremendous victory in the war on terrorism and a defining



55,000 lb of nuclear materials and equipment intercepted

Largest recovery (by weight) ever conducted under U.S. nonproliferation efforts

500 tons of additional material is expected to arrive in the United States

Weapon and process designs were surrendered

moment in Y-12's expanding mission to combat the spread of weapons of mass destruction. Instead of this material and equipment being a threat in Libya, it is safe at Y-12. Libya is safer. America is safer. The world is safer.